

This may be our last battle. We believe that it is the beginning of our final triumph.
MAY 17, 1923 JOHN MITCHELL, JR

RICHMOND PLANET

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THINKS DEMPSEY WILL NOT FIGHT WILLS

DECLARES SIGNING PACT WAS STAGED TO HELP THE MOVIES.

Gives Reasons Why the Champion Will Not Meet the Black Heavy-weight.

Alleges \$25,000.00 Was a Cheap Price for the Delay in an Encounter, Which Will Never Take Place.

By Jack Lawrence, in New York Herald-Tribune.

"Jack Dempsey has not the slightest intention of fighting Harry Wills or anyone else, and his recent signing with the Negro challenger at Niles, Mich., for a titular bout to be held somewhere in the West next September was merely a publicity stunt designed to save a film known as 'Manhattan Madness,' in which the champion and his wife, Estelle Taylor, were the co-stars."

This assertion was made by a wealthy business man of South Bend, Ind., and Chicago, who arrived here yesterday, and who declares that he was invited to become a member of the alleged syndicate which is supposed to be backing Floyd Fitzsimmons, promoters of the bout. He says he was told that he would not have to put up any money, but would only be asked to lend his name and moral support to the project.

The Westerner asked that his name be withheld for business reasons, but produced correspondence in the shape of telegrams and letters to prove that he had been invited to associate himself with the promotion of the heavy-weight championship fight to be staged at Michigan City, Benton Harbor or possibly Chicago next year.

"I believe that the South Bend and Chicago business men whose names have been mentioned in connection with the promotion of the Dempsey-Wills fight really think that it is going to come off," said the visitor yesterday. "It may be that Wills and his manager, Paddy Mullins, are laboring under the same delusion. I don't know about that, but I do know that neither Dempsey nor Floyd Fitzsimmons have any idea that the fight will ever take place. Dempsey is going to retire with the title next fall, after it has been demonstrated that his proposed match with Wills cannot take place."

Dempsey Actually Retired.

"Even in retirement the title is worth more to him than to any other fighter, and he is well aware of this fact. He is going to do exactly what Benny Leonard did as lightweight champion, except that he is not going to excuse himself by saying that his mother asked him to quit the ring. He is going to tell the world that he did his level best to bring about a meeting with Harry Wills, and that it simply couldn't be done. He will then point out that there are no other worth-while contenders in sight and for that reason he has decided to retire undefeated. As a matter of fact, Jack Dempsey is retired right now."

"I do not think that Dempsey is afraid of Wills or any other fighter, but he is afraid that he might lose his title in some way—through a foul or something like that—and he knows that without the title he would not amount to much. I am told that Dempsey has informed a few close friends that he has fought his last fight."

Dempsey has no illusions as to his own standing in the community. He is well aware of his own unpopularity. I think he is more unpopular on the Pacific Coast, where he lives, than he is in the East. When the audience in a boxing club will hiss and boo the heavy-weight champion of the world when he is introduced from the ring there must be something wrong.

"I witnessed the booing in California, Dempsey's adopted state. As a matter of fact, I was in Los Angeles on business when I was first approached in connection with the match that Floyd Fitzsimmons is supposed to be promoting. I did a little investigating out there and learned a lot of things."

"I understand that there is more than \$1,000,000 invested in the Dempsey-Taylor pictures entitled 'Manhattan Madness,' and that the film hasn't earned a penny. It has been a complete failure wherever it has been presented and hasn't sold at all. The producers of that picture went to Dempsey and told him that they attributed the 'flop' of this picture to the fact that the public believed him to be afraid of Harry Wills. The producers were desperate and demanded that he do something immediately in connection with the Wills challenge."

"They got their heads together and the signing at Niles, Mich., was the result, Floyd Fitzsimmons, an old friend, co-operating. Whether this business of signing up for a fight that is never going to take place has helped the picture any I am unable to say. I do know, however, that as a vaudeville attraction Dempsey became such a poor drawing card that an engagement he had on a certain circuit was cancelled. I understand that since the signing at Niles he is to go through with the theatrical tour. Out in Los Angeles and in San Francisco they will lay you odds that Dempsey never will fight again."

Bears Out Lyons' Assertion.

All of the above would seem to substantiate rumors that have been drifting about New York for many weeks. It would also seem to bear out the assertion repeatedly made by Senator "Wild Bill" Lyons, one of Dempsey's closest friends, to the effect that the heavy-weight champion has "hung up his gloves for good."

"According to the Herald-Tribune's informant, the \$25,000 paid to Wills for 'training expenses' following the signing at Niles, was merely to keep him quiet for a year, during which time it was hoped that the Dempsey motion picture projects would get on their feet."

Close friends of Paddy Mullins said yesterday that the manager of Wills is already beginning to suspect that the recent transactions at South Bend and Niles were not all that they appeared to be on the surface. At any rate, Mullins is now on a hurried trip to Michigan City, where he is to have a conference with Floyd Fitzsimmons.

The Michigan promoter was supposed to come here this week, but is said to have changed his mind. Floyd, it is believed, did not care to face the barrage of searching questions that would have been hurled at him on his arrival in New York. Wills also left yesterday for the West, ostensibly to box an exhibition in Detroit. Mrs. Wills, who is regarded as Harry's "business manager," accompanied him.

AN APPEAL TO HELP TUBERCULAR PATIENTS.

Again the chairman of the Health Committee of the Negro Organization Society makes an earnest appeal to ministers, teachers, lodges and all colored leaders of the Old Dominion to call upon the people in your community to rally in raising money to make Virginia's quota \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) by November 5, 1925, for the new building at Piedmont Sanatorium, Burkeville, Va., to accommodate the large waiting list of tubercular patients.

It is grievous to know that so many people in the State with tuberculosis are waiting at home for a bed in the sanatorium.

Every city and county in the State have been given an amount of the ten thousand dollars to raise. Ministers of several of our largest churches in Tidewater have agreed to raise \$100 each. The Negro Organization Society is desirous that the entire quota be raised and reported by or before the annual convention in Staunton, Va., November 11th-13th.

Hence the Health Committee is appealing seriously to all leaders to take this matter under serious consideration for the sake of afflicted humanity and seek to form plans to put your community's quota over and send reports to Rev. M. E. Davis, 1245 Glasgow Street, Portsmouth, Va., chairman of the State's committee, by November 5th.

If no one seems to be raising the money in your city or county, you take it up and write Rev. M. E. Davis; he will supply you with necessary information.

FLORENCE, S. C.

Mr. Patrick Brown died here on Wednesday, September 23d, and his funeral took place on Sunday, the 27th instant. He lived a Christian life, and on his death-bed said: "I am passing through the new Jerusalem, the last struggle." For fifteen years he was deacon and treasurer of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, of which he died a member. He was an industrious farmer and from day to day he enjoyed the confidence of all who knew him. He left to mourn his death his wife, Mrs. Ida Brown, and six sons, viz.: James Brown, W. M. Brown, Fred Brown, Sam Brown, Curtis Brown, Edward Brown.

The entire community sympathize with the bereaved family in their loss.

UNION WINS FIRST GAME OF THE SEASON

While a loyal and enthusiastic band of grid devotees were thrilled and chilled intermittently, one of the most colorful episodes in Virginia Union's football history was enacted on historic Hovey last Saturday as the crafty Union Panther outwitted and vanquished A. & T.'s Farmer brigade from North Carolina by a score of 5 to 0.

A sensational 45-yard end run by Shields, Union's brilliant halfback; a spectacular placement kick from the 40-yard line by a 17-year-old quarterback, Breaux; an unexpected safety completed by Ruffin, Tobin and Houston, makes the story of Union's first triumph over the Tarheelers on Hovey field read like a fairy tale.

Coach Harvey's newly welded together Panther "machine" worked smoothly, and flashed brilliantly at times, with the famous backs, Boffman and Shields, making consistent gains, W. A. Smith bucking the line for yardage, Washington punting well, and Ruffin, Ridley, Tobin, star center, and Anderson were outstanding at line play. On Coach Byron's eleven, Coleman punted hard and ran well, Lane was the next best threat, Bell ran the team well, and Wilson was good at offensive play.

Union made twice as many "first and tens" as A. & T., and several times when in striking distances the Panther was stopped. A. & T.'s cross-back through the line was their best play.

The first quarter was featured by Coleman's 7-yard run, Shields' 45-yard dash around right end, and hard line fighting.

Boffman wiggled through A's line first for four and then eleven yards and then nine yards. Washington gained four yards. Union's men threw A. & T. player, who received their own point on their three-yard line, back across the goal line for a safety. Score, 2 to 0, Union.

Wash kicked off 57 yards in the third quarter, Union and A. & T. penalized for offside. Breaux's accurately registered placement kick from 40-yard line and the score was 5 to 0, Union.

The last quarter was featured with good defensive play, with Ruffin and Gardner, of Union, flashing at the end positions.

Doneghy, "Cute" Carter of Howard, and Penn of Virginia N. & I. I., officiated capably.

The line-up:

Union	A. & T.
Ruffin.....	L. E.
Houston.....	L. T.
Ridley.....	L. G.
Tobin.....	C.
Anderson.....	R. G.
Merritt.....	R. T.
Pitts.....	R. E.
Boffman.....	L. H. B.
Cotton.....	R. H. B.
Shields.....	Q. B.
W. A. Smith.....	F. B.
Subs: Washington, Breaux, Edgar, Gardner.	



REV. DR. WALTER H. BROOKS.

of Washington, D. C., Orator of the Day at the Ground Breaking and Dedication of the Fifth St. Baptist Church, Sunday, Oct. 18th, 3:30 P. M.

DR. BROOKS SPEAKER AT GROUND-BREAKING

Hear Dr. Walter H. Brooks, of Washington, D. C., one of the race's most eminent pulpits, in an address to the people of Richmond, at the intersection of Fifth and Jackson Streets, Sunday, October 18th, at 3:30 P. M.

The occasion will be the consecration and ground-breaking services of the Fifth Street Baptist Church. The congregation is dedicating to the service of the Kingdom a plot of ground on which the new church will be erected.

The Municipal Band and the Gospel Chorus will render the music. Other participants on the programme will be the Rev. I. H. Hines, Rev. R. H. Johnson, A. M., Mr. John T. Taylor and Mr. Quinn Shelton. Dr. W. T. Johnson will be master of ceremonies. Dr. T. J. King is pastor of the church.

Personals and Briefs

Mr. Christopher Laws, formerly of Berryville, Va., is now located at McKees Rocks, Pa., where he is doing well. He remembered The Planet.

Mr. H. C. Fowlkes, of Pittsburgh, Pa., was in the city this week and called on us. He had visited Crewe and Petersburg, Va., and was the guest of Mr. Grant Monroe.

Pew Rally at the Goodwill Baptist Church, 410 N. Monroe Street, Sunday the 18th at 3:30 P. M. Mrs. Phillis Shanks will be the principal speaker. Interesting programme has been arranged. The public is invited. Rev. W. B. Ball, pastor.

Mrs. Minnie L. Scott, of Washington, D. C., who was called to the city on account of the death of her foster sister Mrs. Lucie E. C. Scott returned home Tuesday.

Mr. Cummings, the efficient and popular manager of the Yellow Cab Company, has his desk ornamented with a magnificent specimen of the silversmith's art in the form of a loving up surmounted by a silver baseball, all standing about 15 inches high. It is called the Reach trophy, won by the Yellow Cab team, Richmond, Va., champions Imperial Baseball League, season 1925.

The men tunnelling to reach the body of Engineer Thomas J. Mason, caught in the cave-in of the C. & O. tunnel, succeeded last Sunday night in releasing the dead engineer. He had died at his post of duty and it was necessary to cut through the reverse arm of the locomotive in order to remove the body. It was Friday, October 2, 1925, when the accident occurred. A colored man is still buried in the tunnel.

The Weisberger Company is making bargain offers to the purchasing public. These bargains will prevail during their present great rebuilding sale. The front is boxed up, but entrances are available to the public. Their motto is, "Everything costs less at Weisberger's."

Rev. Dr. Scott C. Burrell is steadily improving. His broken jaw has been reset.

Miller's Hotel, Richmond's famous colored hostelry, was offered for sale by the well-known owner Wednesday, October 14th.

The funeral of Mrs. Sallie Belle Vaughan, grandmother of Chris Jackson, took place Saturday, 10th instant. She had been ailing for some time.

Mrs. Lizzie Peyton, widow of Walter S. Peyton, was married to Mr. Eugene Hairston, of Brooklyn, N. Y., last Saturday in Washington, D. C. The couple will reside in Brooklyn.

Mr. Henry Neal left the city during the Grand Lodge of Masons in the car of Dr. R. E. Jones and his madame, and arrived safely in Philadelphia the next day, the party having stopped over in Washington for the night. Mr. Neal returned home last week much improved in health.

THE GLOUCESTER FAIR.

The Gloucester Agricultural and Educational Fair Association will hold its annual fair October 22 and 23, 1925, at the Gloucester County Training School, near Roanoke, Va. The affair promises to be the most successful event in the history of the association. The brilliant and eloquent Miss Nannie Burroughs, of Washington, D. C., will deliver an address.

PROF. DANIELS AT RISING MT. ZION SUNDAY NIGHT.

Prof. R. P. Daniels of the faculty of Virginia Union University will deliver a lecture at the Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Sunday night, October 18, under the auspices of the Fulton Welfare League. He will be accompanied by the Nightingale Glee Club, under the direction of Prof. William Whitting.

Prof. Daniels recently returned from an extended study tour of Europe with the Fellowship of Youth for Peace group and is well versed in Old World social, economic, political and religious movements.

N. Goode is president of the Welfare League, H. G. Howlette, secretary and Rev. W. E. Brown, director.

WILL DEMONSTRATE FIRST AID WORK IN RICHMOND

Richmond is to receive a visit from a unique corps of traveling experts aboard the American Red Cross First Aid Demonstration Car, which is making a tour over the lines of the Norfolk and Western Railroad being scheduled to reach this city October 25, 1925. It will remain here four days.

Arrangements will be made to give demonstrations of practical methods of First Aid in local schools, to shopmen and other railway employees, the police, firemen and the general public.

WEDDING RECEPTION.

The wedding reception of Mr. and Mrs. George Wallace Epps will take place on Friday evening, October 23, 1925 at their residence, 723 W. Clay Street, from 8 to 11 P. M.

Friends invited. No cards